Five Kentucky Poets Laureate: An Anthology

HANDOUT JG-3

## FROM READING TO RESPONSE: YOUR OWN WAY, IN YOUR OWN WORDS!

## Writing a Metaphor Poem

Select one of the images you created for class and use it to represent something abstract that matters to you, such as a relationship, a problem, or a question. This involves releasing the thing from reality and letting it drift into the dream world of metaphor, somewhat like the images in Dali's famous Surrealist painting, "The Persistence of Memory."

When you have finished writing your metaphor, attempt to give the words a pattern as in Williams' and Gentry's examples—perhaps based on number of words or syllables per line. Add stanza breaks between distinct elements.

If you have trouble with fitting the images you brought to something you want to write about, you may create a new image to represent the abstraction you have chosen, just be sure to make it as specific and fully developed as possible, since you are doing it from memory this time. Try to make your poem a single sentence!

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